

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DEAE-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 MC-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 JUSE-00 OMB-01 OES-06 /062 R

DRAFTED BY S/NM:RDUGSTAD:AM

APPROVED BY S/NM:SBVANCE

ARA/MEX:HLANE (DRAFT)

ARA/RPP:GBROWN(DRAFT)

DEA:BVANMETER (DRAFT)

ARA/OIC:MYOHN (DRAFT)

TREAS:MBACH (DRAFT)

AID/SER/INC:(INFO)

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O 181838Z JAN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ON SENATORIAL HEARINGS ON ILLEGAL
ARMS TRAFFIC FROM US TO MEXICO

REF: MEXICO 486 AND DUGSTAD-MCLAUGHLIN TELCON, JAN. 14

1. REGARDING EMBASSY REQUEST FOR COMMENT AND GUIDANCE ON
EXCELSIOR ARTICLE IN RESPONSE TO PRESS AND OFFICIAL IN-
QUIRIES, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO POINT TO THE POSITIVE
ASPECT OF THIS DEVELOPMENT, THAT THE US GOVERNMENT IS
CONCERNED ABOUT MOVEMENT OF ILLEGAL WEAPONS INTO MEXICO,
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A PROBLEM THAT OBVIOUSLY MUST BOTHER THE MEXICAN GOVERN-
MENT. WE ARE NOT SOLELY CONCERNED WITH MEXICAN NARCOTICS
FLOWING IN THIS DIRECTION. HOWEVER, THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS
OF THIS MATTER ARE REGRETTE.

2. AT THIS POINT THERE ARE NO SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS
UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. RATHER,

IN VIEW OF THE MANY PRESS STORIES AND APPARENT PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE PROBLEM, THE PURPOSE OF THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS WAS TO EXPLORE THE SIZE AND SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM. HOWEVER, US AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTROL OF WEAPONS AND DRUGS - US CUSTOMS, DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, AND BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS -

HAVE BEEN INCREASING THEIR COOPERATIVE EFFORTS TO DETERMINE THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM AND DEVELOP MORE EFFECTIVE MEASURES OF CONTROL. ADDITIONAL COMMENT ON THE ILLEGAL GUN ISSUE MAY BE NOTED IN NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE PAGE 14 OF JANUARY 17 ISSUE. ARTICLE IS BEING TRANSMITTED BY USIA TO POST.

3. CONCERNING THE SPECIFIC POINTS OF TESTIMONY CITED IN REFTEL, THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE OFFERED:

(A) REGARDING REPORTED TESTIMONY THAT SOME MEXICAN CONSULS IN US BORDER CITIES INVOLVED IN ARMS TRAFFIC, SUGGEST EMBASSY RESPOND TO ANY INQUIRY RECEIVED THAT YOU HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT, WHICH WE ASSUME IS CORRECT. FYI: NO MENTION OF THIS ALLEGATION APPEARED IN THE TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, US SENATE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE INVESTIGATIONS JANUARY 12. A CLOSED SESSION WAS HELD AS PART OF THE HEARINGS. END FYI.

(B) INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY INDICATES THAT MEXICO MAY HAVE REQUESTED US TRAINING OF MEXICAN AGENTS IN ANTI-TERRORIST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTIVITIES SEVERAL YEARS AGO AFTER TERMINATION OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM. UNLESS EMBASSY RECORDS INDICATE OTHERWISE, SUGGEST EMBASSY'S POSITION BE ONE ALSO OF HAVING NO SPECIFIC RECORD OF SUCH A REQUEST.

(C) CONCERNING THE STATEMENT ABOUT US CUSTOMS POLICE HAVING JURISDICTION TO OPERATE ON THE MEXICAN SIDE OF THE BORDER, WE BELIEVE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO INQUIRY IN THIS AREA IS TO STRESS THE TRADITIONAL CLOSE COOPERATION IN LIAISON NOT OPERATIONAL MATTERS ALONG THE BORDER BETWEEN US AND GOM LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS.

(D) THE WRITTEN SUBMISSION OF A.T.F. BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON JANUARY 12 MENTIONS A PENDING RECOMMENDATION FROM A.T.F. TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY THAT AN A.T.F. REPRESENTATIVE BE STATIONED IN MEXICO CITY, BUT NO MENTION WAS MADE ABOUT ANY EMBASSY OPPOSITION. SUGGEST EMBASSY RESPONSE BE ONE OF NO KNOWLEDGE IN VIEW OF TESTIMONY INDICATED THAT RECOMMENDATION FOR POSITION

CURRENTLY IS MADE ONLY TO TREASURY NOT TO STATE.

(E) CONCERNING COMMENT ABOUT THE DRUG TRAFFICKER, SICILIA FALCON, THE DEA SUBMISSION BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE STATED THAT THE CONSPIRACY CASE INVOLVED REVENUES ESTIMATED AT SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS.

4. IT APPEARS THAT ILLEGAL MOVEMENT OF WEAPONS FROM THE U.S. TO MEXICO DOES EXIST. TRAFFIC IN ARMS FOR DRUGS ALSO EXISTS; THE EXTENT OF SUCH TRAFFIC IS UNKNOWN. INITIAL STUDIES DO NOT SHOW ANY SIGNIFICANT CONNECTION BETWEEN SMUGGLING OF DRUGS AND ARMS. ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATIONS ARE PENDING. THE SUBJECT IS RECEIVING GROWING ATTENTION FROM THE U.S. CONGRESS AND THE PRESS. WE ASSUME THAT THE SUBJECT WILL ALSO BE OF INTEREST TO THE GOM AND WE EXPECT THAT THE EMBASSY MAY BE APPROACHED BY THE GOM FOR DISCUSSIONS OF THE PROBLEM. IN VIEW OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SERIOUS NATURE OF THIS ISSUE AND ITS RAMIFICATIONS FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL AND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, WE SUGGEST THAT THE EMBASSY BE READY TO OFFER FULL COOPERATION TO THE GOM IN EXAMINING MEANS OF SUPPRESSION OF ILLICIT MOVEMENT OF WEAPONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, ARMS SMUGGLING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RDUGSTAD:AM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770140/aaaabjbn.tel
Line Count: 145
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History: Hold (001 Tobacco) added on 4/16/2009 3:39:10 PM by WASHDCMcGoldRJ, Hold (001 Tobacco) removed on 4/16/2009 3:45:09 PM by WASHDCMcGoldRJ (Litigation Hold Lifted)
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